

Teacher's Implementation of 21st Century Skills

How is teaching for 21st Century learning different?

Planning and Preparation

- Knowledge of students' approaches to learning, skills, knowledge and interests
- Learning targets are clear, meaningful to students and allow for different approaches to learning
- Learning activities support the learning target, relevant to students
- Multiple resources (print, digital, community etc) that support the learning targets are available for students

Engaging Students

- Content, activities and assignments relates to student's prior learning and engages them cognitively
- Questioning and discussion techniques encourage student participation, independence and higher level learning
- Structure and pacing allows for initial learning, reflection, closure and is appropriate for all students
- Grouping of students promotes productive group work, supports the learning targets and encourages advanced levels of learning

Classroom Environment

- High expectations for the learning of all students are supported through classroom interactions
- Caring and respect is supported in the classroom by teacher and student interactions
- Importance of content is demonstrated through student participation, curiosity and attention to detail

Flexibility and Adaptability

- Lesson adjustments are made based on formative assessment of student learning
- Opportunities to enhance learning are seized based on student's questions, interest and spontaneous events
- Persistence in seeking effective approaches to support students who need help reaching the learning targets

Adapted from Danielson, C., (1996) *Enhancing Professional Practice: A Teaching Framework*, ASCD

Teaching 21st Century Skills

Questions to consider when building lessons

Planning and Preparation

- What do I know about my students learning, skills, knowledge and interests?
- What are the learning targets for the lesson?
- What are the "I can...." statements that support the learning targets?
- What learning activities will support the targets?
- What resources can I use (print, digital, community, etc.) that support the learning targets and are available for students?

Engaging Students

- How can I relate to students prior learning and engage them cognitively?
- What questions and discussion techniques will encourage student participation, independence, and higher levels of learning?
- How will I structure and pace activities that will support initial learning, practice, reflection, and closure for all students?
- How will I group students to support the learning targets and promote advanced levels of learning?

Classroom Environment

- How will I communicate high expectations while supporting all students to reach them?
- How will I demonstrate caring and respect in the classroom?
- How will I stress the importance of the content and the processes of learning?

Flexibility and Adaptability

- What formative assessments will I use to decide what lesson adjustments are necessary?
- What learning opportunities may arise based on student questions, interest and spontaneous events?
- How may I need to be persistent finding additional approaches for students who need help reaching the learning targets?